

more as the valuation of the real and personal property appears upon the assessment roll of the year 1920; and 7 claim, therefore, it is \$24,000,000 in excess of the constitutional right to levy the 2 per cent.

"The assessment here means the complete assessment rolls, and the assessment rolls are not completed until the tax is extended, and the extension may be changed at any time by the Board of Aldermen until the warrant is delivered to the tax collector. It should be referred to the preceding year instead of the current year because of the language of the constitution.

"The year referred to is the calendar year, as has been frequently decided. When a levy of city taxes is to be made the test to be applied is, Will such tax with prior taxes in the same year exceed 2 per cent? If so it is prohibited.

City Might Levy Two Taxes.

"If it does not refer to a prior year the following situation might arise: A city might levy two taxes in the same year, one before and one after the levying of the State and county tax for that year. It is intolerable, in interpreting this provision, that the validity of a city tax should depend upon a subsequent assessment of State or county tax. The State or county taxes under the statute if levied in December, and the city tax levied in any preceding month, it must therefore necessarily refer to the aggregate as it appears in that year, as compared with the preceding assessment roll.

"Besides, at the time this amendment was adopted the assessment rolls were not delivered for city purposes until July 1 and it was essentially necessary that the city authorities should have knowledge, at the time they incur indebtedness which ought to be provided for by budget, of the limitation under which they incur that indebtedness or liability."

"Have you any means of relief in reducing the city charges?" Mr. Brown asked.

"None that I know of at this time," the Mayor said.

"You are down to the bone in city expenses."

"I wouldn't say that." "I have had many suggestions to make to this committee of any economy that can be made to reduce the present burden." The Mayor said if the Legislature would amend the charter by giving the Mayor the right to make recommendations to make detail reports to the Mayor every three months were complied with. The Mayor thought they were in a general way and said the committee could have all reports he had. He did not think the rule had been followed strictly.

The examination brought out that the number of city employees had increased greatly during the Hylan administration.

"I think there are too many inspectors and too much inspection," the Mayor said, but he had not worked out any scheme for cutting the forces. Similarly with the engineering forces, he said, big reduction could be made if the forces were consolidated, but nothing had been one toward that end. The salaries of engineers amounted to \$1,354,000 and of the engineering force \$1,173,000.

Senator Walker interrupted to ask about a bill Mr. Brown had introduced regarding home rule. Finally Mr. Brown said:

"Senator Walker thinks this is a debate in the Senate."

"No, I don't; it is serious business which I think is being treated seriously by the committee—at least the people who are paying the bill think it is serious."

"That is not in very good form," Mr. Brown said.

"I think it is. We have had a day and a half of wasted time here in examination of records which could be only a test of the Mayor's credibility or knowledge, and it is going to cost \$100,000 to find that out. Some men here enjoy this sort of thing because they expect to get somewhere politically with it. Some of us are looking for a better way to improve the city."

"I agree with the first day and a half's work of this committee."

"More Talk of Resignations."

"If I have the backing of this committee I am willing to proceed with this investigation. But I am not willing to make detail reports to the Mayor every three months. I want that fully understood, and I mean what I say." (Mr. Brown was angry and spoke loudly.) "The committee will have to take charge of itself and manage itself."

"I have made no stump speech," Walker said, also much wrought up. "I look upon this statement as an insult. I am a member of the Senate, and the employer, and you are the employee, and I do not propose to sacrifice my prerogatives, even to a man of your standing. If I have to take charge of myself and manage myself."

The examination continued without further interruption. It was brought out that in 1915 and 1920 the increase in the city payroll amounted to \$20,000,000. The Mayor said that while he favored reducing per capita wages to the level of the State, he did not believe salaries should be cut. The Mayor said:

"City employees ought to have a good living wage. They ought to live as well as possible. If you are looking for salaries because of the decreasing cost of living."

Resuming his testimony, the Mayor explained his inability to answer questions regarding city expenses by stating that even experts in the Finance Department could not answer them without care and study. He had asked the Comptroller for information and the city's chief financial agency, chairman of the Sinking Fund Commission and other agencies, and I want to find out what you know and what you think of certain financial problems.

"At the time you came into office the Comptroller's statement shows there was

a debt limit of \$18,000,000, is that right?" "Yes, according to the Comptroller."

"The increase in debt incurring power between then and the last assessment in your administration is \$173,000,000, and yet you have only \$137,000,000 left at the end of last year."

The Mayor had the questions read over and finally agreed that that was what the Comptroller's figures showed it must be correct.

"The limit in unencumbered authorizations to be \$137,000,000, a difference in \$36,000,000, which decrease has taken place during your term of office, which, plus the \$134,000,000, would be a decrease in unencumbered authorizations, or the limit shown by them during your period in office, of \$53,000,000. Have you given any attention to that?"

"I don't know that the grouping of figures that you have given there is correct."

"I have given them directly from the Comptroller, whose figures you accept, unless they are impeached."

"There is some question whether some part of it is not increased instead of decreased. I would say that that was a question that you ought to put to the Comptroller."

Spurs on Teachers' Salaries.

"But it shows a decrease of \$53,000,000 in debt incurring power during your term, doesn't it?"

"That's right, but we spent that money for schools and rapid transit and things like that."

"Oh, you spent it for all kinds of things; the money is gone."

"Have you made any inquiry regarding the amount of uncollectible taxes on the books?"

"You will have to refer to the Comptroller for that."

"Do you know it amounts to \$30,000,000?"

"I don't know the amount, not off-hand."

"Have you known the amount of uncollectible taxes, estimated by the Comptroller or Tax Department, during your term?"

"I haven't any idea. I cannot carry those details."

"You complained yesterday of the act fixing the teachers' salaries as affecting your duty, did you?"

"I did not complain of the salaries but because it was made mandatory by the Legislature and forced on the city without our consent."

"The salaries are fixed by that act more than you were willing to allow?"

"No, I do not object to the salaries but to the legislation."

"Loud applause came from the galleries. Senator Meyer bounded for the front. 'Of this sort of disturbance continues we will have to take steps to prevent it,' Meyer shouted."

"Senator Brown, if you had been here you would have objected, too," the Mayor said.

"I am an old Bourbon, but I sometimes change," Mr. Brown said.

The Mayor admitted that he accepted education as a State function and that paying teachers was part of education, but insisted repeatedly that Albany had no right to fix salaries here.

"I am going to be with you on the subject of mandatory legislation when we get that defined, but do you regard all legislation affecting all the State as mandatory?"

The Mayor insisted anything affecting New York money affairs was mandatory, but he admitted that the city probably would have given the teachers a raise, too.

Reverting again to sinking funds in the city government, Mr. Brown began asking questions, but the Mayor insisted he ought not to be put through a civil service examination.

"How much of the Sinking Fund money during 1920 was used for cashing securities or bonds of indebtedness issued by the city?"

"You will have to ask the Comptroller."

"Has there ever been a sinking fund for the payment of exempt dock bonds?"

"I can't remember."

"Is any provision made for the dock bonds?"

"I think there is. The Mayor thought it might be in the old city fund, but he could not tell off-hand."

Declines to Stand "Exam."

"Would you be surprised if I told you that the dock bonds, neither exempt nor the others, are paid at all from that fund; that nothing of that kind was paid from that fund?"

"I think I would be surprised. It is unfair that I be asked about all these details."

"You think my inquiries are unfair."

"If you want to get the correct and accurate information that you had ought to get the head of the department selected for that purpose."

"And you are in the same situation in relation to the other exempt debts of the city. You take the same position in regard to them?"

"Practically all. You and I once passed the Bar examination, but if we were to take it now we might not have such good luck."

"When you said you thought that I ought not to press the line of inquiry, I stopped. Mr. Mayor. Have you ever given any consideration to the provisions of the constitution in relation to maintaining these sinking funds for the payment of the exempt debts of the City of New York?"

"I have read the constitution on many occasions but I cannot remember it all, Senator."

"Do you remember generally the provision in relation to maintaining sinking funds for the payment of exempt debts of the City of New York?"

"I don't remember it offhand. Now we are getting into a civil service examination on the constitution."

Evades Tax Levy Questions.

Mr. Brown asked the Mayor what he knew about the constitutional provision limiting the tax levy to two per cent of assessed valuations on real and personal property.

CURRAN ADDRESSES OVERFLOW CROWDS

Republican Coalition Candidate Welcomed Warmly in Harlem.

'CITY NEEDS NEW DEAL' Tells of Hylan's \$2,000,000,000 Error in Municipal Finance Figures.

BACKS FIVE CENT FARE Reiterates His Stand for Home Rule and Better Housing.

Henry H. Curran, coalition designee for Mayor, spoke twice in Harlem last night and in each case emphasized the importance of a city government that understands the seriousness of the city's finances.

"It would be funny if it were not so serious," he said in an address before the Thirtieth Assembly District Republican Club, 403 West 126th street.

The evening papers in reporting the Meyer committee hearing, state that the Mayor, during his examination by Senator Brown this afternoon corrected a statement by Senator Brown in regard to the city's total assessment valuation.

"That's a mistake," Mayor Hylan is quoted as saying, "the figure is \$3,000,000,000."

"This would have been all right, if the Mayor had been right, but as usual, he was wrong—\$2,000,000,000 out of the way, but what is a couple of billions between friends?"

"The financial problem," Mr. Curran continued, "is the most serious of all, but there are others, such as home building, schools, charter revision, playgrounds, parks. We intend to discuss all these as the campaign advances. Our platform will be out before the primaries so that the people will know just where we stand."

Ready to Serve.

"I was ready to go on this ticket in any place where I might serve the party best. The city needs above all else a change in administration. The Republicans and the Independent Democrats—the kind of Democrats who want no more of the sort of government we are getting to-day—must pull together."

"The issues are as plain as day, but they must be discussed. Campaign speeches will come later. I want to talk now as a party worker. Every one of the 440,000 enrolled Republicans must get out and vote on primary day, September 13. Then we can go into the fight with a mandate from our own party and show them such a smashing victory on election day as New York has never seen before."

"September 13 must be a great day—a sign post pointing to what will happen November 7. And on November 8, which happens to be my birthday, I mean to celebrate getting ready to take office as Mayor on the first of next year."

Again referring to the city's financial crisis, Mayor Curran said, in addressing the Central Republican Club, at 23 West 124th street:

"This is a city of 4,000,000 persons and five great boroughs and a net debt of more than \$1,000,000,000. We are spending more than \$1,000,000 a day, and every dollar that goes over the top means something to every man, woman and child in New York."

For Five Cent Fare.

"One of the issues in the transportation problem, I am for the five cent fare, and I know what I am talking about when I say it. I've studied the question, and five cents is sufficient. One thing more, I believe the city should have something to say about its transportation system. I am for home rule."

Eight years ago I wrote magazine articles in favor of it. I believed in it six months ago. I believe in it now, and I intend to believe in it when I am elected Mayor."

"Another issue is home building. As a member of the Board of Estimate I helped in getting the \$100,000,000 housing project started. The only way to get rents going down is to get homes going up. I have very little to do with members of the Hylan administration. I had to fight practically single handed to get the ordinance through. And now some people call me the home builder."

"Not only do we need more homes, but we must have more schools. We would have them to-day if it were not for the quarrelling in the Board of Estimate. All we have to do is to get a one-half school in Forest Hills and an addition to a school in The Bronx."

Major Curran's running mates, Senator Charles C. Lockwood and Vincent Gilroy, Fusion candidates for Comptroller and President of the Board of Aldermen, also spoke at both meetings. Both halls were filled long before the speakers arrived and an overflow crowd of several thousand persons stood in the street outside.

In introducing Mayor Curran Arthur B. Murphy, president of the Central Republican Club, suggested that Mayor Hylan when stumped for an answer to the question of the Mayor committee call on Curran for the correct information. Charles F. Murphy's now famous phone booth remark, "The convention has just adjourned," was made the subject of ridicule by Mr. Gilroy, who is an anti-Tammany Democrat. He referred to Hylan as "that flamboyant demagogue who now disgraces the Mayor's chair," and said that the real Mayor of New York sits in Fourteenth street.

DOWLING IN FIELD AGAIN.

Will Seek Supreme Court Nomination From Democrats.

George J. S. Dowling cast his independent hat into the ring for nomination to the Supreme Court in the Second district yesterday. He has been a yearly aspirant in the Democratic primaries since 1915. In 1919 he beat the organization and got a nomination, but was defeated at the polls. This year candidates for the Supreme Court will be chosen by party conventions again and Dowling announced yesterday he would again seek nomination by the Democratic convention.

John J. McManus, clerk in the Gates avenue police court, will be an independent candidate for Sheriff of Kings county against Michael Laura, the organization designee. John H. Smith will run against James A. McQuade, the organization designee for Register.

Cost of Living Increased in Germany During July

BERLIN, Aug. 10.—The cost of living in Germany, as computed by the National Bureau of Statistics, shows that July was the costliest month of the year thus far. The index figure in the computations was fixed at 903 for July as against 924 for January and 896 for June. Increases in price of all categories of food were chiefly accountable for the general rise in the cost of living, which runs uniformly throughout Germany. The municipal employees of the administration of Greater Berlin are formulating a joint demand for wage increase in anticipation of new tax levies and of increased prices of bread and higher rents.

LAGUARDIA'S FUSION SCHEME BLOWS UP

Judge Haskell Would Let Republican Grand Jurors Pick Candidate.

The fusion movement of the independent candidates for the Republican nomination for Mayor, conceived in the brain of President La Guardia of the Board of Aldermen, blew up yesterday. He had asked for a conference in his headquarters, at Fifth avenue and Sixtieth street.

On Tuesday night William M. Bennett told him: "Maybe I'll come. Let me know what Judge Reuben L. Haskell says."

Yesterday Haskell sent him a message saying in part: "Why not obtain advice from a jury of citizens as to whether you, Bennett or myself should run for Mayor? If you and Bennett will agree I will accept and follow majority recommendation of Republican Grand Jurors now serving in the several counties of the city or Republican members of last Grand Jury. My preference would be for a majority of the Republican county committee-men—men and women—of this city to determine the question, if time allows."

Bennett read the message in the newspapers and said to La Guardia by telephone: "It's all off. Haskell has decided to come opera staff. I'll not come."

La Guardia called Haskell and offered to meet him anywhere, if not at the La Guardia headquarters. The reply was encouraging: "Come to my office, president of the Board of Aldermen would say last night. He would not say whether he would run for Comptroller on the Haskell ticket."

"Tammany should be driven out of the office of the District Attorney, root and branch," said John Kirkland Clark, Republican designee for that office, last night. "I neither mean to make a fight necessary to accomplish this result and when elected to substitute for the present incompetency, inefficiency and waste in administration which will adequately discharge the responsibilities of the office."

CHRYSTIE STREET CAFE PROPRIETOR IS SLAIN

Police Believe Dispute Over Card Game Was Cause.

A gun fight in a cafe at 196 Chrystie street—another in the long list of killings that have swept over the city in the last few weeks—resulted early this morning in the death of Joseph Pasanantino, one of the proprietors. Pasanantino was found dead on the floor of the place. Two bullets had pierced his heart and one his right lung. Three men found loitering in a doorway a few feet from the cafe were taken to the Prince street station and detained pending an investigation.

When on post a few blocks away from the store the shots and snarl to investigate. The search revealed the murder, and in addition a room in the rear that gave evidence of a card game broken up in disorder. It was believed that a dispute over cards led to the shooting.

PLOT TO KILL PREMIER MERELY SUBTERFUGE

Irish Woman Wanted to Get Financial Help.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK HERALD. Copyright, 1921, by THE NEW YORK HERALD. New York Herald Bureau, Paris, Aug. 10.

What the police at first believed was a plot to assassinate David Lloyd George, the British Prime Minister, crumbled to-day when magistrates questioned an Irish woman named McNally, a native of Cork, who was in a restaurant outside the French Foreign Office yesterday when she asked a policeman to lend her a revolver with which to shoot Mr. Lloyd George.

Earlier yesterday the woman called at the office of the New York Herald of Paris and, pleading hard luck, asked for a small loan. When this was refused she declared she would try to find a revolver, but added:

"I do not want to commit suicide. I am going to kill Lloyd George."

The police learned that the woman arrived in Paris several days ago with small savings, which were spent for liquor. Unable to find work here, she decided she would force the British Embassy to help her financially by getting the police and the press excited over a new Irish scare.

Tammany's Heaviest Man.

Ferret Nagle is the heaviest man in Tammany Hall. He was born in Cork fifty-nine years ago. For years he was leader of the old Thirtieth Assembly district. During the war he went to France as a private and became a major and commander of the 102d Ammunition train.

Mr. Banton became First Assistant District Attorney under Edward Swann when Mr. Talley went on the bench. He was born in Huntsville, Texas, in 1859. He was educated in the South and came to New York in 1876. He lives at 103 East Twenty-ninth street.

Justice Collins was born in 1863. He has served in the Assembly. In the Corporation Counsel's office as Deputy Attorney-General and was appointed to the Court of Special Sessions in 1912. He is head of the Children's Court. Justice Collins is president of the Catholic Big Brothers' league.

Many members of the executive committee knew that Judge Talley was to

be turned down until the slate was presented in the meeting. His name had been presented by Thomas A. Williams, leader of his district—the Seventeenth—at the suggestion meeting on Tuesday. It was supposed, of course, that Talley would be retained. The committee named to select a ticket from the camouflage list of suggestions did not look fagged out from lack of sleep. From some source William Allen, the chairman, received a slip of paper and read it as his report. As usual, the leaders meekly intoned the slate and filed out.

"Why was Talley denied a renomination?" Mr. Murphy was asked. "I suppose the committee thought they had named the best ticket," he replied blandly.

Other leaders tried to create the impression that Talley's name had not been suggested by any of his friends and, therefore, he had lost by default. Others suggested that some of the women had objected because early in the year he had expressed the opinion that he would accept the advice of those who wanted him to run as an independent candidate in the regular campaign. He attacked Murphy, saying:

"In 1914 I suggested to Murphy that in order to test his popularity with the people he name himself for State Comptroller, which he declined. You could not get Murphy to run for Alderman in the regular campaign. He attacked Murphy, saying:

"I have no comment to make to-night," said Judge Talley when asked to explain his retirement. The account on the right shows the strong impression that the incident was not closed, so far as he was concerned.

William F. Schneider, who was turned down for renomination as County Clerk by both the Democrats and Republicans, said yesterday he did not know whether he would run in the Democratic primaries, for which his friends were circulating petitions, or whether he would accept the advice of those who wanted him to run as an independent candidate in the regular campaign. He attacked Murphy, saying:

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For District Attorney—Joab H. Banton, present first assistant in the office of the Sheriff—Percival E. Nagle, leader of the Twentieth Assembly District, Street Cleaning Commissioner under Mayor Van Wyck.

For County Clerk—James A. Donegan, friend of William Randolph Hearst and present Register.

For Justice of the Court of General Sessions—Judge Joseph J. Mulqueen, re-designated; Cornelius F. Collins, present Justice of the Municipal Court, and Francis X. Mancuso, City Magistrate by appointment of Mayor Hylan.

For Justice of the City Court—Justice Edward B. La Fette, re-designated, and Louis A. Valente, re-designated.

Nomination of Woman.

TALLEY IS DROPPED BY TAMMANY BOSS

Friends of Ex-Gov. Smith and of Judge Furious Over Action.

LOCAL TICKET NAMED Julius H. Miller for Borough President and Banton for District Attorney.

NAGLE PICKED AS SHERIFF Miss Anna Mathews Designated as Register—Donegan for County Clerk.

Judge Alfred J. Talley was turned down yesterday by Charles P. Murphy of Tammany Hall for redesignation as a candidate for renomination to the Court of General Sessions. Friends of former Gov. Alfred E. Smith, who appointed Talley last December to take the place of Judge James T. Malone, and of the Judge himself were furious last night. To their demands why a renomination was denied to the Judge no satisfactory answer was forthcoming. There were indications that the drastic action might cause a storm in Tammany Hall before many days.

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Nomination of Woman.

The fact that the Republicans had named a woman for Register—Helen Varick Boswell—forced the Democrats to nominate their first woman for a county office. Miss Mathews is a former suffragist, was a Presidential elector last year and is a member of the Mount Morris Baptist Church. Selecting a woman for Register caused Donegan, for whom a place on the ticket had been demanded by Mr. Hearst, to be shifted to County Clerk, and Maurice Bloch, slated for the latter place, had to be dropped.

M. Samuel Stern, lawyer and member of the Board of Education, who had been picked for Borough President, informed Mr. Murphy at 3 o'clock in the afternoon that he did not want the nomination. So for racial reasons Julius H. Miller was put in the breach. He was born in New York city forty-one years ago and received a degree at the New York Law School. He succeeded Ogden L. Mills as Senator in 1919, having defeated Schuyler M. Meyer, who two years later defeated Miller.

"I hold the record for introducing legislation," said Mr. Miller last night. "I put in more bills than all the twenty-two Democratic Senators. Single handed I introduced the celebrated tuberculosis bill. I caused the repeal of the dog law. I am for a five cent fare in New York."

It was evident that Mr. Miller, who lives at 19 East Ninety-eighth street and has an office at 51 Chambers street, was proud of his record.

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